

Amendments to the Claims

1. (currently amended) A method comprising:
setting ~~an initial~~ a toner report level upon powering up a print device or replacing a toner cartridge; then
averaging a group of toner level sensor readings to produce a group average;
if the group average is less than the ~~initial~~ report level, setting the report level to the group average;
if the group average is not less than the report level, leaving the report level unchanged; and then
averaging a subsequent group of toner level sensor readings to produce a subsequent group average, each reading being within a prescribed percent of the report level; and
if the subsequent group average is less than the report level, setting the report level to the subsequent group average;
if the subsequent group average is not less than the report level, leaving the report level unchanged.

2. (currently amended) A method as recited in claim 1, wherein setting ~~an initial~~ a toner report level upon powering up a print device or replacing a toner cartridge further comprises:

receiving toner level sensor readings and selecting the highest reading as the toner report level.

3. (original) A method as recited in claim 1, further comprising:
continually repeating the recited actions of:

averaging a subsequent group of toner level sensor readings to produce a subsequent average, each reading being within a prescribed percent of the report level; and

if the subsequent group average is less than the report level, setting the report level to the subsequent group average.

4. (currently amended) A method as recited in claim 1, further comprising:
prior to setting an initial a toner report level upon powering up a print device or
replacing a toner cartridge, setting the report level to an arbitrary value.

5. (original) A method as recited in claim 1, wherein averaging further
comprises:
receiving toner level sensor readings that are pushed from the toner level
sensor each time a change occurs in the sensed reading.

6. (original) A method as recited in claim 1, wherein averaging further
comprises:
receiving toner level sensor readings that are pulled from the toner level
sensor at a preset interval.

7. (original) A method as recited in claim 6, wherein the preset interval is a
temporal interval.

8. (original) A method as recited in claim 6, wherein the preset interval is an
event based interval.

9. (original) A method as recited in claim 1, further comprising:
reporting the report level upon request.

10. (original) A method as recited in claim 1, further comprising:
reporting the report level automatically upon a preset interval.

11. (original) A print device, having computer-readable media with computer-
readable instructions for performing the method as recited in claim 1.

12. (original) A computer, having computer-readable media with computer-
readable instructions for performing the method as recited in claim 1.

13. (currently amended) A method comprising:
setting ~~an initial~~ a toner report level; then
averaging a group of toner level sensor readings to produce a group average;
if the group average is less than the initial report level, setting the report level
to the group average;
if the group average is not less than the report level, leaving the report level
unchanged; and then
averaging a subsequent group of toner level sensor readings to produce a
subsequent group average; and
if the subsequent group average is less than the report level, setting the
report level to the subsequent group average;
if the subsequent group average is not less than the report level, leaving the
report level unchanged.

14. (original) A method as recited in claim 13, wherein each toner level
sensor reading in the subsequent group of toner level sensor readings is within a
prescribed percent of the report level.

15. (currently amended) A method as recited in claim 13, wherein setting
~~an initial~~ a toner report level further comprises:
receiving toner level sensor readings and selecting the highest reading as the
toner report level.

16. (original) A method as recited in claim 13, further comprising:
continually repeating the recited actions of:
averaging a subsequent group of toner level sensor readings to
produce a subsequent average; and
if the subsequent group average is less than the report level,
setting the report level to the subsequent group average.

17. (currently amended) A method as recited in claim 13, further comprising:

prior to setting ~~an initial~~ a toner report level, setting the report level to an arbitrary value.

18. (original) A print device, having computer-readable media with computer-readable instructions for performing the method as recited in claim 13.

19. (original) A computer, having computer-readable media with computer-readable instructions for performing the method as recited in claim 13.

20. (currently amended) A method comprising:

receiving N readings from a toner level sensor;

setting a report value to the highest of the N readings; then

receiving M readings from the toner level sensor;

calculating an M reading average;

if the M reading average is less than the report value, setting the report value to the M reading average;

if the M reading average is not less than the report value, leaving the report value unchanged; and then

receiving Q readings from the toner level sensor, wherein each of the readings is within a prescribed percent of the report value;

calculating a Q reading average; ~~and~~

if the Q reading average is less than the report value, setting the report value to the Q reading average

if the Q reading average is not less than the report value, leaving the report value unchanged.

21. (original) A method as recited in claim 20, further comprising:

continually repeating the recited actions of:

receiving Q readings from the toner level sensor, wherein each of the readings is within a prescribed percent of the report value;

calculating a Q reading average; and
if the Q reading average is less than the report value, setting the report value to the Q reading average.

22. (original) A method as recited in claim 20, further comprising:
setting the report value to an arbitrary number upon powering up a printer or replacing a toner cartridge.

23. (original) A method as recited in claim 20, wherein receiving readings further comprises:
pushing sensed values from the toner level sensor each time a change occurs in the sensed value.

24. (original) A method as recited in claim 20, wherein receiving readings further comprises:
pulling sensed values from the toner level sensor at a preset interval.

25. (original) A method as recited in claim 24, wherein the preset interval is a temporal interval.

26. (original) A method as recited in claim 24, wherein the preset interval is an event based interval.

27. (original) A method as recited in claim 20, further comprising:
reporting the report value upon request.

28. (original) A method as recited in claim 20, further comprising:
reporting the report value automatically at a preset interval.

29. (original) A method as recited in claim 28, wherein the preset interval is a temporal interval.

30. (original) A method as recited in claim 28, wherein the preset interval is an event based interval.

31. (original) A method as recited in claim 20, wherein the prescribed percent is 10 percent.

32. (original) A method as recited in claim 20, wherein N, M and Q each equals 8.

33. (original) A method as recited in claim 20, wherein toner is any marking agent stored in a cartridge for use in a print device.

34. (original) A print device, having computer-readable media with computer-readable instructions for performing the method as recited in claim 20.

35. (original) A computer, having computer-readable media with computer-readable instructions for performing the method as recited in claim 20.

36. (currently amended) A printer comprising:

a consumable marking agent;

a sensor to sense the amount of marking agent;

a printer controller configured to:

set an initial a report level of the marking agent; then

~~the printer controller further configured to receive and average a~~
group of readings from the sensor and, if the group average is less than the report level, to set the report level to the group average, but if the group average is not less than the report level, to leave the report level unchanged;
and then

~~the printer controller further configured to receive and average a~~
subsequent group of readings from the sensor, each reading of the subsequent group of readings being within a prescribed percent of the report level, and, if the subsequent group average is less than the report level, to set

the report level to the subsequent group average, but if the subsequent group average is not less than the report level, to leave the report level unchanged.

37. (original) A printer as recited in claim 36, wherein the printer controller is further configured to continually receive and average subsequent groups of readings from the sensor, each reading of the subsequent groups of readings being within a prescribed percent of the report level, and, if any subsequent group average is less than the report level, to set the report level to that subsequent group average.

38. (currently amended) A printer as recited in claim 36, wherein a printer controller configured to set a setting an initial report level of the marking agent further comprises:

a printer controller configured to receive ~~receiving~~ readings from the sensor and select ~~selecting~~ the highest reading as the report level.

39. (canceled)

40. (canceled)

41. (canceled)

42. (currently amended) A system comprising:
a sensor configured to sense the amount of a marking agent; and
a printer controller configured to:

set an initial a report level of the marking agent; and then
~~the printer controller further configured to~~ successively receive and average groups of readings from the sensor, and if the average of any group of readings is less than the report level, to set the report level to that average, but if the average of any group of readings is not less than the report level, to leave the report level unchanged.

43. (canceled)